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courage is contagious

Viewing cable 07BOGOTA4471, PARA-POLITICAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK NOT ON LEGISLATIVE

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#07BOGOTA4471**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
07BOGOTA4471	2007-06-20 23:20	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Bogota

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.elespectador.com/wikileaks>

VZCZCXYZ0006
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHBO #4471 1712320
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 202320Z JUN 07
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6369
INFO RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 9088
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ JUN LIMA 5154
RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA 0386
RUEHQD/AMEMBASSY QUITO 5766
RUEHGL/AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL 3987
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RHEHOND/DIRONDCP WASHDC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 004471

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

Classified By: Political Counselor John S. Creamer.
Reasons: 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶11. (C) Presidential Legal Advisor Mauricio Gonzalez told polcouns June 15 the GOC proposal to provide for reduced, alternative sentences for politicians, front men (testaferros), ranchers, and others who were linked to the paramilitaries but were not United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC) members nor involved in atrocities is not on a legislative fast track. The GOC has yet to decide if it will introduce legislation in the next Congressional session, which starts on July 20, but Gonzalez continues to work on a possible bill.

¶12. (C) Gonzalez said Uribe has made clear he is not looking for an amnesty; he wants a bill that would provide for reduced sentences (3-5 years) conditioned on reparations and full confessions. Individuals who received the reduced sentences would be required to serve some jail time and would be subject to a lifetime ban from participating in politics. Gonzalez said if the bill went forward, it would introduce proportionality between the sentences served by paramilitary collaborators and the time served by paramilitary leaders guilty of atrocities. He said it would be unjust for an individual who helped the paramilitaries under duress to serve more time than an individual guilty of multiple massacres.

¶13. (C) Meanwhile, lawyers for congressmen implicated in the parapolitical scandal are soliciting legislative support for a bill to reclassify the conspiracy charges facing their clients ("concierto a delinquir") as a political crime, which would make them eligible for pardons and would preserve their political careers. Gonzalez said Justice and Interior Minister Carlos Holguin had blocked effort to introduce an amendment to that effect in the legislative session that ended on June 20. Gonzalez told polcouns Uribe will not support this approach and will not pardon congressmen involved in the parapolitical scandal.

Drucker